



*Cody's Crazy Adventure* was written by Katrina Lau and Ng Wainung

There was once a young raven haired girl called Hody who was as kind and gentle as a mother, but had a soul as brave as a knight. Although Hody radiated a sense of heroism, she also had a great sense of fun and a thirst for adventure.

Hody lived in the never sleeping city of Hong Kong, where there was plenty of adventure on offer, as it was a place of wonders that delighted the eyes and intrigued the mind.

As she was always looking for adventure, people often called her Crazy Hody.

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Edited by M. J. Premaratne

# Inspiring tale of cooperation

Students from a local and international school have teamed up to write 18 children's books, writes **Nicola Chan**

**W**hen students from local schools team up with their international counterparts, they can be a powerful force. And so it proved as students from Island School (IS) and Ng Yuk Secondary School (NYSS) came together for a book-writing activity earlier this year. They wrote 18 children's books which were launched at Island School on October 31. Among them were stories about Hong Kong-based superheroes and marauding pirates, and jungle adventures.

Book writing was part of a series of activities organised by Community English - an extracurricular group at IS - who hoped the project would help their non-native English-speaking peers enhance their reading and speaking skills.

All the stories were related to the local school students' English language curriculum.



(From left) Ng Wainung, Patricia Wong, Shawn Chan and Joyce Ma. Photo: Nicola Chan

*Young Post* spoke to four young authors to learn more about the rewarding experiences they gained from their collaboration.

"The NYSS students came up with the general plot, and we, being the more confident English speakers, helped develop it, and guide them through different phases [of story writing]," said IS student Ng Wainung, 14.

Another IS student, Shawn Chan, also 14, agreed. "We tried to help them build the story; but the ideas are all theirs."

NYSS students started developing their story ideas in October last year, but the actual book-writing

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activity began in February. That was when Island School's course, Writers' Block, was launched, and the students used the website StoryJumper to create their e-book.

"I found it fun and refreshing to interact with local school students," said Wainung, who wrote *Cody's Crazy Adventure*.

Shawn said she also enjoyed the activity, because she had the opportunity to work with her group mates Tiffany Chan and Hody Lee, as well as visit a local school. "It's exciting to learn about the workings of a local school, like how the students studied, and how their schedules were different



Staff and students from Island School and NYSS at the launch ceremony. Photo: Island School

from ours," said the author of *Daniel and May's Rollercoaster of Adventure*.

Meanwhile, NYSS student Patricia Wong praised her IS partner Steffany Wong for being kind and helpful. "We became friends instantly," said the 13-year-old author of *The Plane Crash*. "My English speaking has also improved, as I got more chances to use the language for communicating with my international school friend while we worked on the book," she added.

Joyce Ma, 13, said she would definitely join similar English learning programmes in the future. "While we learn to speak English better, I've also become more sociable and have started making new friends."

The writer of *Veronica's Newest Adventure* added that she's learned new words, such as "desperately" and "eerie", which would help her descriptive writing.

Physical copies of the children's books are now available at the Tai Wai community library.